I

RURAL DISTRICT OF WADEBRIDGE AND PADSTOW

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year Ending 31st December, 1969

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30226569

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S. D. Crowle, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. J. Trebilcock, M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Public Health Inspector:

T. L. Old, Esq.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1969.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

Estimated mid-year population, 1969		17,540
Area in acres		91,804
Number of inhabited houses		7,412
Rateable value		£526,669
Product of penny rate		£2,211
Comparability factors	Births	1.11
	Deaths	.86

II VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number of Live Births, 1969

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	118	103	221
Illegitimate	7	9	16
	125	112	237

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	13.5
Live birth rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	16.3
Comparable live birth rate	15.0

Stillbirths

Two still-births were registered during the year, one in each sex, both legitimate.

Deaths

Number of Registered Deaths, 1969

Male	Female	Total
100	107	207

Crude death rate per 1,000 population	11.8
Crude death rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	11.9
Comparable death rate	10.1

Two infant deaths were recorded, one of each sex, both occurring during the neo-natal period.

Distribution of Deaths by Cause, Age and Sex, 1969

Cause of Death	Sex	Age in Years									Total
		0-	1-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
Heart Disease	Male	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	14	13	39
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	9	18	39
Cancer	Male	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	7	4	18
	Female	-	-	-	-	3	4	2	5	8	22
Respiratory Disease	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7	14
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	3	10
Cerebro Vascular Disease	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	8
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	16	22
Accident	Male	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
All other causes	Male	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	5	8	19
	Female	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	12
TOTAL	Male	1	1	-	1	2	3	24	33	35	100
	Female	1	-	-	-	5	5	15	26	55	107

68% of male deaths occurred over the age of 65 years; in females 77%. Heart disease and cancer were the most frequently recorded causes of deaths.

III GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Since the closure of the ante-natal clinic in Wadebridge, patients requiring specialist supervision attend clinics in Newquay or Truro. Even with convenient public transport such journeys are regarded as undesirable, but with present public transport, attendance at these clinics must be almost unbearable. The new out-patient department at the East Cornwall Hospital in Bodmin should encourage ante-natal facilities to be established there as a more convenient service to the public. A psychiatric clinic is now established at Brooklyn.

Laboratory assistance for Public Health has continued to be provided by Dr. Barrow in Truro City Hospital.

Local Health Authority Services

1. Ambulance Service

Vehicles from the County Main Station situated in Bodmin, supported St.John and Red Cross ambulances in Wadebridge and Padstow provided adequate cover during the year.

2. Health Visiting and Nursing

Health visitors and nurses became more closely associated with the family doctor by the introduction of attachment schemes. Each practice is now provided with its own Health Visitor/Nurse with the object of providing a more integrated service for the public.

3. Vaccination and Immunisation

Routine protection is offered against the following diseases:- Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Measles. All are available from family doctors, Infant Welfare Centres and School Health Service. B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is provided for pupils entering Secondary Schools. Protection against Yellow Fever is available through the County service in Truro by appointment.

4. Domiciliary Midwifery

The opening of Penrice and Treliske Maternity Units has resulted in a gradual reduction in the number of home confinements. Previously something over half of the confinements were conducted in the home. The proportion is now less than one quarter, and is likely to decrease further. The need for more convenient ante-natal supervision for hospital confinement becomes more obvious, and the need for domiciliary midwives less.

5. Mental Health and Welfare

Based on Brooklyn the County Council provides social services for the mentally ill and subnormal patients, for the disabled and elderly, for problem families and the unmarried mother. A social worker for the blind is also available. St. Breock House provides accommodation for elderly persons no longer able to look after themselves. The home has the keen support of the League of Friends.

6. Screening Clinic

The screening clinic is held monthly at Brooklyn for uterine and breast cancer and for diabetes. During 1969 one case was referred for operative treatment together with a number of inflammatory conditions requiring active treatment.

7. School Health Service

Routine medical examinations of all pupils entering Primary and Secondary schools were completed. Pupils leaving school were examined on a selective basis, the selection being made on information from parents, teachers and existing medical records. The number of examinations was considerably reduced, allowing additional time for those with specific problems. The physical state of school children is very satisfactory. The concern expressed in some quarters of the increasing number of obese school children seen on inspection raises doubts about the need of free school milk on such a lavish basis.

8. Voluntary Agencies

The Family Planning Association continue to hold clinics at Brooklyn. Pre-school Play Groups are available in Wadebridge, Padstow and Trevone.

IV SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

The following information on the water supply to the district during 1969 has been prepared by Mr. Worraker, Chief Engineer, North and Mid Cornwall Water Board.

Sources

The major part of the district has been supplied from the De Lank works although parishes lying N.E. of the Camel Estuary have been supplied from Lowermoor Works or De Lank according to availability of water in relation to total demand. It is not possible to quote a figure for total consumption in the district. Consumption rises steeply in the period June to August and it is necessary to use the spring sources of Hustyn and Crackrattle during the holiday season. Water from these sources is mixed with De Lank water at Wadebridge and Padstow Reservoirs. Regular sampling from the distribution system showed that a high standard of bacteriological purity has been maintained.

Rural Extension Schemes

During the year, some 2,200 yards of 4in. main was laid at Lanivet at an approximate cost of £4,900, and 1,400 yards of main was laid to serve Helland Bridge at a cost of £3,800.

Distribution Reinforcements and Renewals

A great deal of work was carried out at Trevone in laying a new 6in. main from the Reservoir to the Church and in laying new mains to eliminate old galvanised pipes of small diameter and poor condition. The Reservoir was thoroughly overhauled and provided with new inlet arrangements and a by-pass to enable it to be cleaned in future. The old 3in. main from Four Turnings to Treator was replaced with a 6in. pipe. In general, some order has been introduced into the previously haphazard distribution arrangements of the district.

A new 6in. main was laid in Trewint Lane at a cost of £2,800 to reduce the pressure variation occuring in Rock.

A 4in. main was laid at St. Merryn to improve distribution pressures.

Old and inadequate mains have been replaced at Queen's Park, Trevilling, and Egloshayle in Wadebridge, in Polzeath, Trelights and Rock.

Whenever mains are renewed, the communication pipes are renewed at the same time where necessary.

Mains Extensions for New Development

Mains have been laid for new development in many parts of the district, e.g. Sarah's Lane, Dinas Estate, Rock, Polzeath, West Park (Wadebridge), Trelights, St. Merryn etc.

During the year a total of 208 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, including 30 from private sources. Unsatisfactory results were obtained in eight private sources. In these cases the users were advised appropriately.

The fluoride content of the main sources of supply is known to be low. Approval for the addition of fluoride has now been given by the County Council, but has not yet been implemented.

Distribution of Piped Water Supplies by Parishes

Parish	Estimated Population	Total Houses	Connected	Not Connected
Blisland	468	200	112	88
Cardinham	395	173	70	103
Egloshayle	352	128	53	75
Helland	206	73	34	39
Lanivet	1078	416	305	111
Lanhydrock	145	50	NIL	50
Padstow	2567	1099	1082	17
St. Breock	646	246	169	77
St. Endellion	1088	555	525	30
St. Ervan	353	121	83	38
St. Eval	669	433	385	48
St. Issey	584	262	184	78
St. Kew	770	321	256	65
St. Mabyn	517	186	131	55
St.Minver Lowlands	1288	612	571	41
St.Minver Highlands	690	421	410	11
St. Merryn	1286	561	513	48
St. Tudy	426	172	104	68
Withiel	263	97	91	6
Wadebridge	3749	1298	1298	NIL
TOTALS	17540	7424	6376	1048

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The provision of sewerage systems in parts of the District continue at a moderate pace. Systems with treatment works already exist at Lanivet, Blisland and part of St. Merryn parish and St. Kew Highway. Mains drainage exists in Wadebridge, Padstow, Trevone and Port Isaac, where crude sewage is discharged to river or sea. The Council has a most unsavoury discharge point for cesspool emptiers on the River Camel. New systems with sewage treatment are urgently needed at Port Isaac, Wadebridge and St. Minver Highlands (Polzeath). There is a difference of opinion between the Public Health Department and the River Authority concerning the order of priority. Less urgent but still needy are systems for the villages of St. Kew Highway, St. Mabyn and St. Tudy, Trelights, Nanstallon and Rumford.

The scheme for St. Minver Lowlands is likely to be completed in the near future, and detailed plans are in hand or in the course of preparation for most other Parishes.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

The Council has a partially controlled tip at Treworder and also continues to use a similar tip at Credis which was originally used by Padstow Urban District Council. There were no complaints from these sources. Refuse collection gave rise to many complaints following the Council's decision to reduce the service in the interests of economy.

Rodent Control

The Council employs one full-time rodent operator. No heavy infestations were recorded. The service to domestic premises is free of charge. Routine treatment of sewers, refuse tips and other local authority premises were made.

Summary of Inspections

			Agricultural	Non Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District		7790	934
2.	(a) Total number of properties inspected following notifications		259	93
	(b) Number infested	(i) Rats	246	92
		(ii) Mice	14	0
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected, otherwise than notification		552	94
	(b) Number infested	(i) Rats	492	63
		(ii) Mice	19	0

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Twenty abandoned cars were removed to the refuse dump or breakers yard by the owners on service of notice, or directly by Council labour. Every effort is made to keep the district clear of unsightly litter. The provision of recognised collecting points for items too bulky for normal refuse collection has much to be commended.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The number of caravans and tents in use during the summer months increases year by year. Overcrowding of licensed sites is common, with overflows into unlicensed sites. Sites for which planning approval was supported by the Council, but refused by the Planning Authority, continue to be used in excess of the statutory period without the standard requirments. More sites are urgently needed. Overcrowding of existing sites with minimal sanitary provisions constitutes a much greater public health risk than if the caravans and tents were widely scattered throughout the district.

Fortunately these conditions prevail for a period of six to eight weeks only, during the height of the holiday season.

Number of Site Licences Operating During 1969

	Residential	Holiday
(a) Individual	84	12
(b) Multiple (More than three)	3	28
Total Number of Caravans	133	1814

Ten breaches of Site Licence conditions were remedied informally during the year.

Tented Camping Sites

Number of licensed sites 1969	2
Number of tent pitches	60
Number of unlicensed sites in regular use	11
Approximate number of tent pitches	140

V FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk Supplies

The number of registered milk distributors has increased to seventy. The County Health Departement continued the supervision of sources of raw milk for brucella infections. There are at present three accredited brucellosis free herds in the district.

Ice Cream

Samples of ice-cream from retailers were submitted with the following results:-

Grade	1	2	3	4
Number	11	13	10	9

Grades three and four indicate moderate bacterial contamination most probably arising in the case of bulk ice-cream from poorly sterilised servers or inadequate storage. Ice-cream servers are usually stored in bowls of water with or without a sterilizant. Samples were taken from bowls to determine the effect of using a sterilising compound. Bacterial counts were reduced by their use, but even better results appeared to be achieved by using very frequent changes of fresh water. A schedule of recommendations of ice-cream server hygiene has been circulated to all retailers.

Inspections of Premises

All food premises were visited during the year. Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. Thirteen contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied informally. Inspection of delivery vehicles was carried out and no serious breach of regulations was observed. There are no Poultry processing premises within the Rural District.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

The four licensed slaughterhouses in the district continued in use. The conditions of slaughter, dressing and storage are generally satisfactory. Forty minor contraventions of Slaughterhouse Regulations were remedied informally.

Food poisoning organisms (Salmonellae) are frequently associated with slaughtered animals and a search by swabbing for such organisms was conducted over a considerable period. The results from the Public Health Laboratory on forty three samples produced no positive findings. The results of carcas inspection are given below.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,773	440	87	4,698	10,183
Number Not Inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	9	17	16	92	40
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	228	101	Nil	181	663
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	237 ~~Nil~~
Cysticerci					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	7	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Number of Registered Premises, 31st December, 1969	223
Number of Premises Receiving General Inspection	33
Number of Visits to Registered Premises	56

Of the thirty three premises receiving their first inspection the following deficiencies were reported:-

1. Inadequate lighting	2
2. Lack of first aid appliances	4
3. Other matters	9

Number of accidents reported and investigated was two. Only seven premises have not had a full routine inspection.

VI FACTORIES

Number of Registered Factories	60
Number of Inspections Carried Out	10

Most of the factories in the district use mechanical power, which places the responsibility for supervision on the Inspector of Factories with the exception of the provision of sanitary facilities. No contraventions were recorded.

VII HOUSING

There are 983 Council owned permanent houses and 26 prefabricated dwellings in the district. During 1969 twenty four units of accommodation were completed for the elderly in St. Minver Parish. A warden service is provided. Sixteen houses were closed as unfit for habitation. Ten families were rehoused on these grounds. Four properties previously reported under this category were made fit to be inhabited again.

House Improvement

Twenty seven standard grants were approved at a cost of £5,265. Discretionary grants were twenty one, of which five were completed at a cost of £2,050. Changes in improvement grants in the 1969 Housing Act have brought an increasing number of enquiries and applications for financial aid. There are still many dwellings in the district which require renovation and the provision of the basic standard amenities. A survey of some of the larger parishes is proposed to ascertain the true requirements. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Summary of Visits

Meat Inspection	1062
Improvement Grants	114
Standard Grants	131
Caravan and Camping Sites	101
Shops, Cafes and Hotels	95
House Inspections and Slum Clearance	123
Water Supplies and Water Samples	131
Ice Cream, Milk, Cream and other Foods	72
Factories	2
Drainage - General	151
Drainage - Nuisance	66
Nuisance - General	49
Condemned Foods	13
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	64
Abandoned Vehicles	55
General	100

VIII PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1969

Scarlet Fever	10
Measles	6
Infectious Hepatitis	1

No outbreak of notifiable disease was recorded. There were no cases of food poisoning reported. All protective inoculations continued to be accepted at a satisfactory rate. The demand for smallpox vaccination is still low.

Much information in this report is provided by my colleagues Mr. Crowle, Mr. Trebilcock and Mr. Worraker, to whom I am most grateful. My thanks are due also to the Members of the Council and the Staff for their ready help and support.

I beg to remain

your Obedient Servant

JOHN REED